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UNCLAS ANKARA 006323

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ISAF: TURKEY AND FRANCE AGREE TO SHARED COMMAND OF  
KABUL MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE

1. On Oct. 18, PolMilOff discussed with COL Yakub Battal of the TGS J3 the state of play of negotiations between France and Turkey on their proposal to jointly command ISAF's Kabul Multinational Brigade beginning in mid-2006. Battal reported that France and Turkey have reached agreement, and would announce this at a joint briefing in Paris on Oct. 21.

2. Battal faxed the following notification to the Embassy the same day. Informal Embassy translation follows (note internal paragraph numbering):

BEGIN TEXT

Reference: French General Staff's fax of September 22, 2005

1. Meetings were held on September 7, 2005 in Ankara and on October 14, 2005 in Paris between Turkey and France related to the Kabul Regional Command, which is to be established in summer 2006.

2. As a result of the meetings, Turkey and France reached a mutual understanding to serve as the leadership countries for the Kabul Regional Command.

3. Information will be provided at a briefing on October 21, 2005 in Paris, France, to be co-chaired by Turkey and France. France has sent an invitation for the meeting by letter and through the Defense Attache Offices in Paris.

4. Our country will be pleased to contribute to the Kabul Regional Command.

END TEXT

MCELDOWNEY